



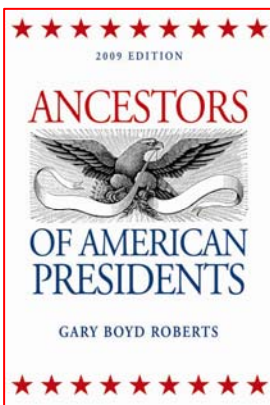
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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**ANCESTRY OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS
DETAILED IN NEW BOOK**



Boston – Jan 20, 2009 – The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) announces the publication of **Ancestors of American Presidents, 2009 Edition**, in honor of inauguration day. This authoritative book by Gary Boyd Roberts, Senior Research Scholar Emeritus at NEHGS, comprises up-to-date information about ancestors of every American president from George Washington to Barack Obama. Taken as a whole, the ancestries of the presidents demonstrate the geographical and social range of successive political elites — more so now than ever, with the election of America’s first biracial president.

More than thirty years in the making, the book is a capsule distillation of American social history. It covers the full traceable ancestry of the 43 individual American presidents (Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th president, is only counted once), and covers seven generations for those born in the eighteenth century, eight generations for those born in the nineteenth century, nine generations for those born in the twentieth century, and ten generations for Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama.

Roberts offers ancestor tables for each president (both Adamses, both Harrisons, and both Bushes are grouped together); the best royal descents of each president and First Lady; more than 150 charts outlining kinships between presidents; and appendixes for kin and “kin of kin” to Pocahontas, presidential *Mayflower* lines, and connections to the modern British royal family and European royal families generally.

“[Gary Boyd Roberts]’s expertise is breathtaking, particularly regarding prominent American families and their European forebears.”

— Sam Allis, *The Boston Globe*, about the author

The first edition of **Ancestors of American Presidents** was published in 1995. Upon its publication, *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* wrote, “This impressive work incorporates all the published scholarship to date on presidential ancestry . . . Highly recommended.” With the 2009 edition, Roberts has produced the latest and most comprehensive work on its subject, refining and expanding his earlier work and adding coverage of George W. Bush’s maternal ancestors and the full ancestry of Barack Obama. Always viewing his research

as a way to group and categorize regional ancestries and political elites, Mr. Roberts is also fascinated by – and conveys the fascination of – family networks that include America’s presidents.

The ancestor tables and charts in the book give clues to the reader’s own ancestry — and possible kinships to American presidents. For example, with New England, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia planter ancestry — and much Southern ancestry yet untraced — Obama is certainly a distant kinsman of millions of Americans whose government he will soon head. This book will offer the reader a cornucopia of genealogical “treats” — a variety of presidential kin, likely new ancestors, and a more precise knowledge of his or her own genealogical connectedness to this nation and its history, origins, and European past.

Interesting facts:

- Thirty of our forty-three individual presidents are related, distantly but often several times over, to one or more other presidents. President-elect Barack Obama is related to James Madison, Harry S Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson, Gerald R. Ford, Jr., Jimmy Carter, and both Bushes.
- Barack Obama and George W. Bush are eleventh cousins, sharing early ancestors from Plymouth County, Massachusetts.
- The two Bushes, George Herbert Walker Bush and his son George Walker Bush, have the most ancestral ties to other presidents, with a total of eighteen.
- Barack Obama and Lyndon Johnson are among the closest kin, with ties that go back only 200 years. They are fourth cousins, three times removed.

About the author:

Gary Boyd Roberts is Senior Research Scholar Emeritus at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, with which he has been associated since 1974. He is the author of *American Ancestors and Cousins of The Princess of Wales*, *The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies or the United States*, *Notable Kin*, vol. one and vol. two, *The Best Genealogical Sources in Print*, vol. 1, and many articles, introductions, and columns.

His lifetime work is a twenty-three-volume manuscript, “The Mowbray Connection: An Analysis of the Genealogical Evolution of British, American and Continental Nobilities, Gentries, and Upper Classes Since the End of the Middle Ages.” Mr. Roberts holds a BA from Yale and an MA from the University of Chicago; he pursued further study at the latter and the University of California, Berkeley. He has been quoted on various genealogical matters in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and many other media outlets, both in the United States and abroad.

Roberts’s frequent research associate, Christopher Challenger Child, is a Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, with which he has been associated for over a decade. His breakthrough article on Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln is cited in this work, and for this edition he contributed solutions to problems in the ancestry of Coolidge and George W. Bush, gathered much material on the ancestry and presidential kin of Barack Obama, and on these last discoveries was widely quoted in the media in early 2008. Mr. Child is a graduate of Drew University.

About NEHGS:

Founded in 1845, New England Historic Genealogical Society is the country's oldest and largest non-profit genealogical organization. Located in Boston, NEHGS collects, preserves, and interprets materials that help make accessible the histories of families in America. The NEHGS research library, one of the most respected genealogical libraries in the field, is home to millions of books, journals, manuscripts, photographs, microfilms, documents, records, and other artifacts that date back more than four centuries. The award-winning web site www.NewEnglandAncestors.org offers access to more than 110 million names in 2,400 searchable databases. NEHGS has more than 23,000 members nationally. NEHGS staff includes some of the leading expert genealogists in the country, specializing in early American, Irish, English, Italian, Scottish, Atlantic and French Canadian, and Jewish genealogy.

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